

network focus

August 2009

In This Issue

- There's a lot to be said for being a trustee
- Ongoing support for trustees in your area
- Events for trustees
- Resources to help charities cope with the recession
- Case study – Guildford and Waverley Trustee Network
- Network Focus

There's a lot to be said for being a trustee

Earlier this year CTN ran a survey exploring the positive experiences that individuals have had of being a trustee.

Over 200 trustees responded to the survey, 95% of which agreed that they had, to some degree, acquired new skills since becoming a trustee. 89% also agreed that to some degree, however small, being a trustee has helped with their personal or career development.

Being a trustee also appears to be a good way to widen and diversify your social circle, with 81% of respondents saying they have met people from different backgrounds that they might otherwise not have met. And 60% of people agreeing strongly that through being a trustee they had met people who have since become good friends.

In a time of recession when many unemployed people are wondering how to keep their skills current and their confidence up, trusteeship may be one answer. 68% of respondents agreed very strongly that their skills and experiences have been valued by the charity of which they are a trustee.

CTN believes that if charities focus on such positive outcomes of being a trustee, alongside a balanced view of the responsibilities of trusteeship, then more very able people may be interested in becoming trustees rather than being put off by the doom and gloom which often accompanies talk about trusteeship.

Ongoing support for trustees in your area

Sadly much of the work that charities do these days is project funded, and so when it's finished it's over. This is particularly true of work with trustees. However, CTN has a way to make sure that the good work you do with trustees is continued. All trustees who sign up free on CTN's website receive regular e-newsletters keeping them up to date and letting them know about new resources, changes in the law, consultations and events.

There are two ways to get trustees to sign up.

- 1) Encourage them to go to www.trusteenet.org.uk and register themselves.
- 2) With their permission gather the relevant trustee contact

KEEP YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE
If you are no longer a trustee or your details have changed, log in to www.trusteenet.org.uk to update your details.

details by filling in the form found here:
<http://www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/sign-details-ctn-e-newsletters>

Please email the completed form to membership@trusteenet.org.uk, or send to 2nd Floor, The Guildford Institute, Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH.

Events for trustees

We know that you run lots of events which are of interest to trustees, even if they aren't specifically for trustees. We're very happy to upload these to the events section of the website to help publicise them. All you have to do is forward details of the event to events@trusteenet.org.uk

And please do let us know about your trustee network events. We publicise these not only on the events page, but also on the network page for your network and in our e-newsletter for trustees. Just send them to the same email address and we'll make sure as many trustees as possible know about them.

Resources to help charities cope with the recession

Lots of organisations are producing helpful resources to help charities address issues caused by the current recession. Charity Trustee Networks has gathered lots of these together to enable trustees to access them more easily. Please do tell charities and trustees you work with about the resource area which can be found, alongside all our other resources, at www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources

Case study – Guildford and Waverley Trustee Network

The local CVS in Guildford, Voluntary Action South West Surrey, was keen to set up a trustee network, and, as CTN is also based in Guildford the two organisations worked together to get it off the ground.

On 12th February 2009 CTN organised an event to get local trustees together, this was based round a seminar and drinks reception. During the event the 60 trustees present were asked about what they would like from a trustee network – the day and time for meetings, frequency of meetings and what subjects they would like to be covered.

VASWS and CTN then used this information to plan the first meeting. VASWS choose the topic, organised the speaker and sent an email out to its members. CTN found a local stockbroker, Charles Russell, who was willing to provide a venue and catering. CTN also publicised the network meeting to its members.

The first meeting was held on the 1st July 2009 from 5-7pm. Over 20 trustees came, which was good considering there was an Andy Murray tennis match on at the time and it was during the heatwave. The topic for the meeting was Recession Proofing your Organisation, and involved a mixture of presentation, handouts and group

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discussion. The presentation and handouts are available at
www.trusteenet.org.uk/networks/guildford-and-waverley-trustee-network

After the meeting the trustees stayed on to enjoy wine, sandwiches and networking.

Network Focus

The next issue of Network Focus will be in October. If there is anything you would like to see in it please email
networks@trusteenet.org.uk .

Previous issues of Network Focus can be accessed at
www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/2052